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SOURCE

Ibuk T'ongsin.

MANCHURIA AS SEEN BY KOREANS
ESCAPING TO SOUTH KOREA

Many Koreans voluntarily exiled themselves during the Japanese administration and most of them settled in Manchuria. After the liberation some of them returned to Korea but the great majority remained in Manchuria, for they felt that Manchuria was "home" after having lived there 20 or 30 years. They had high hopes for brighter days in Manchuria until that land became plagued with the Communist dictatorship. Koreans who recently escaped from Manchuria reported the following:

1. Military Situation

The weapons of the Communist soldiers are mainly Japanese weapons confiscated at the time of Japanese surrender. Until 1948 the Communist Army had enough weapons, ammunitions, and medical supplies, but now they are particularly short of the last two items. However, the principal goods shipped to Manchuria from the USSR are military supplies arriving by the Sungari River, about four or five shiploads every day. Many of the former Korean Independent Army troops are now serving in the Communist Army of the Northeast People's Government.

2. Industry

The Pungman dam in the upper region of the Yalu River is now under the administration of the Communist Army. It employs about 100 workers. The power production is about 20 percent lower than the prewar level. The power shortage is so acute that during the winter months power consumption by private houses is restricted.

There are practically no technicians in CCF; therefore, they welcome any Japanese technicians.

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3. Education

There is no notable educational undertaking in Manchuria. The only books available in quantity are the history of the Communist Party and booklets on Leninism. The Communists are, however, wasting no time in teaching Communist principles to the rank and file. Schools for girls have been changed to a one-year system. Textbooks are mainly on Leninism, land reforms, history of the Korean Communist Party, history of capitalism, history of imperialism, etc.

4. Living Conditions

Even in prewar days, most of the Koreans in Manchuria were engaged in agriculture with only a few engaged in investment enterprises. Today, most of the unemployed are conscripted into military service.

5. Economic Situation

People in Manchuria must exchange their paper money for new currency once a month. Prices of consumers' goods are: rice, 8,000 won per 1.8 liters; sugar, 35,000 won per pound; book of matches, 1,500 won; pair of socks, 30,000 won; pair of sport shoes, 200,000 won; etc.

In addition the Soviets have imposed a special quota of munition production upon Manchurian industries.

The Chinese Communists ship most of their mineral products, certain agricultural products, agricultural experimental equipment, and even railroad ties to the USSR. The South Manchuria Railroad has been changed to the Chinese Communist Railroad and the Chinese Eastern Railroad has been renamed the Northeast Railroad, but the administrators of the railroads are all Russians. The number of runs has been cut by half, and a part of the rolling stock has been shipped to Russia.

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